THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) The LCA project was sanctioned in 1983 at a preliminary cost estimate of Rs. 560 crore, at 1982-83 price level. The scope of work and the project cost was to be refined after carrying out a detailed Project Definition. The Project Definition outlined the need for phased approach for development and incorporation of state-of-the-art technologies to ensure that the LCA would be a world class and contemporary aircraft at the time of its induction. Based on this, the Government accorded sanction in April 1993 for Rs. 2188 crore for phase-I of full scale engineering development. The first indigenous LCA has already been rolled out and is undergoing

detailed ground qualification testing to ensure safe flight. All efforts are on for preparing the aircraft for the first flight by the end of the year. The project activities are being closely monitored at a very high level and the LCA is expected to be inducted in the Air Force by the year 2003 instead of 2005.

PWG backs demand for Telangana State

*206. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Indian Express, dated the 26th June, 1997, captioned "PWG to back demand for Telengana State";

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action taken to curb such demands by extremists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government's policy is to advance the principles of political, administrative and economic federalism, as a consequence of which the benefits of development are expected to percolate down much faster to the hitherto underdeveloped regions of the country where-from the demands for Statehood are emanating.

Unlawful extremist activities will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions of law.

Measures for safe drinking water in villages

*207. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a country-wide survey wherein it is said that almost 143,000 villages in the country face problems regarding availability of safe drinking water; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures proposed to be taken to make available safe drinking water in these villages?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the validation survey of 1994, as on 1.4.1994 there were 1,40,975 Not Covered habitations. After taking into account the progress of coverage during the last three years and the re-verification of the data by the States, as on 1.4.1997 out of the 14,30,851 rural habitations in the country, there were 55,625 No Covered (NC) habitations yet to be provided with safe drinking water facilities. The NC habitations are expected to be covered by 1998-99 under the on-going Minimum Needs Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and the Basic Minimum Services.

"इंदिरा आवास-योजना" में वित्तीय एवं इंजीनियरी संबंधी अनियमितताएं

*208. **श्री सूर्यभान पाटील वहाडणे**: क्या ग्रामीण क्षेत्र और रोजगार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को "इंदिरा आवास योजना" में होने वाली वित्तीय एवं इंजीनियरी से संबंधित अनियमितताओं की जानकारी हैं;